CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-41. (Cancelled)

42.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

providing an online catalog on a computer, the catalog having an unavailable product/attribute selector to select an unavailable product or attribute that is not offered for sale; and

using selections of unavailable products or attributes that are not offered for sale obtained via the unavailable product/attribute selector as market research to determine whether to extend a product offering that includes the unavailable products or attributes.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

suggesting an existing/standard product based upon and as a replacement for the selection.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

determining a resource cost for the unavailable product/attribute.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

assigning a category of design requirements to the unavailable product/attribute.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

determining a resource cost for the unavailable product/attribute;

assigning a first category to the unavailable product/attribute if the resource cost is relatively lower;

assigning a second category to the unavailable product/attribute if the resource cost is relatively higher.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

transmitting a request for the unavailable product/attribute to an address associated with the assigned category.

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48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

transmitting the request to a manufacturing facility for the unavailable product/attribute if it is assigned to a first predefined category.

49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

transmitting the request to an engineering department for the unavailable product/attribute if it is assigned to a second predefined category.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

providing a list of available products in the online catalog.

51.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

obsoleting an available product by moving it from the list of available products to a list of unavailable products.

52.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

receiving an order of an available product and transmitting a request to a manufacturing facility.

53.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the unavailable product/attribute selector comprises a list of unavailable products/attributes.

54.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

classifying an item in the list of unavailable products/attributes.

55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the unavailable product/attribute selector comprises an online form.

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56.   (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a user interface selection device in communication with the processor, the user interface selection device adapted to display a list of products or attributes that are not currently offered in a line of available products or attributes from a provider; and

a processor to compile selections made through the user interface of the available products that are not currently offered in a line of available products or attributes, the compilation of selections to be used as market research for a decision of whether to extend a product offering to include the list of products or attributes.

57.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the processor stores in a memory of the system a list of unavailable products/attributes.

58.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the processor displays the list of unavailable products/attributes on a visual interface of the system.

59.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the processor stores in a memory of the system a category of design requirements associated with the unavailable products/attributes.

60.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the processor is adapted to receive a selection of an unavailable product/attribute via a selection signal from a user interface selection device of the system; and

display a resource cost of the unavailable product/attribute on a visual interface of the system.

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61.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the processor is adapted to receive a selection of an unavailable product/attribute via a selection signal from a user interface selection device of the system; and

identify, by a CPU of the system, one or more available products, from the list of available products, that has similar characteristics to those of the selected unavailable product/attribute; and

display the identified one or more available products on a visual interface of the system.

62.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the processor is adapted to generate a specification for a product in response to receiving, by a CPU of the system, a selection signal from the user interface selection device of an unavailable product/attribute.

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